

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939, in accordance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health this report is "an interim one only and is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, especially any matters arising from or connected with the war, outbreaks of infectious disease, and measures for maternity and child welfare, together with any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health".

Records and statistics are being preserved in order that a comprehensive report may be given at a later date after the cessation of hostilities.

I desire first to express my thanks to Dr. Byers my predecessor for the help he gave me in taking over the appointment, and for his acting again for a week in order to allow me to have some leave.

My thanks are also due to the members of the Council and to the Clerk and other officials for their assistance especially during the diphtheria outbreak.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.  
PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

During the year, the part time Medical Officer of Health retired on account of age, and was succeeded by a Medical Officer restricted from private practice; a joint appointment with the Alderley Edge and Cheadle & Gatley Urban District Councils.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has continued to give a considerable amount of attention to Air Raid Precaution work, and during the year the temporary additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed to the permanent staff, partly in connection of refuse disposal being transferred from the Surveyors to the Public Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

There were no basic alterations in these during the year. Owing to the reception of evacuees the number of sessions at the School Clinic were increased, and a considerable amount of work done at them. It was not found necessary to supplement the District Nursing Services of the district by paid assistance. Hospital provision was slightly altered; from the outbreak of war certain cases of infectious disease were dealt with at Westhulme Hospital, Oldham, instead of Monsall Hospital, Manchester. The Maternity & Child Welfare services were unaltered, the return of evacuees who would have attended such clinics being very rapid. Towards the end of the year a Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic was commenced.

In order to deal with cases of minor illness among evacuees, arrangements were made with Alderley Edge Urban District Council for the treatment of such cases at Northcliffe Sick Bay.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There has been no change in these during the year.

The only circumstances I desire to call attention to is the considerable amount of property which has not been covered, the bulk of such is in Styal.



As to the Sanitary Inspection of the area, I herewith present the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, and in doing so, wish to state that he, with his assistant, have proved most helpful and have given great attention to the Sanitary work, though so many other duties in other connections were undertaken by them.

Public Health Department,  
Wilmslow.

20th August, 1940.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wilmslow Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939 as follows :-

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The total number of inspections made and notices served with respect to each section of the work, is set out in the following table:-

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with.
<u>Housing.</u>				
Dwelling Houses (under Public Health Acts).	244	113	15	122
Dwelling Houses (under Housing Acts.	13	13	4	11
<u>Meat &amp; Food Inspection.</u>				
Slaughterhouses	100	-	-	-
Butchers Shops	5	-	-	-
Cowsheds	14	4	-	4
Milkshops & Dairies	7	-	-	-
Food Premises (other than above)	-	-	-	-
<u>General.</u>				
Factories (including Bakehouses)	6	4	-	4
Shops	4	-	-	-
Tents, Vans & Sheds	18	1	-	1
Water Supplies.	5	5	-	1
x Infectious Disease	60	-	-	-
Schools	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Visits	51	-	-	-
	527	140	19	143

x During the Diphtheria Outbreak in June, hundreds of visits (which have not been included in the above table) were paid both to contacts and consumers of a particular milk supply. The officials of other departments kindly volunteered and assisted in making the very necessary inquiries.

Meat Inspection.

Number of Slaughterhouses in district ... 10.

Table of Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	<u>Beasts.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number inspected	157	3	104	118	382
Number condemned	11	-	-	-	11

In addition to the total condemnation of 11 carcasses, ten of which were affected with Tuberculosis, it was necessary to condemn various parts and organs, a list of which will not be included this year.

Effect of the War.

Although the War has caused the Ministry of Health to ask for all Annual Reports to be curtailed as much as possible, I venture to suggest that all reports on public health work for 1939, would have been considerably reduced because of the great amount of work placed on local authorities, and particularly Health Departments, in connection with Air Raid Precautions. The year 1939, might be described as a peak year in this respect in which the organisation which had been built up largely in the first eight months, had suddenly to be put into operation and improved upon towards the end of the year, with the result that the peace time duties of the Health Department had to be greatly neglected.

During 1939, routine inspections with the exception of visits to Slaughterhouses, had to be abandoned, which means, that practically no supervision was given to such premises as Cowsheds and Dairies, Factories, Bakehouses, Shops, Food Premises, etc. Certain duties, however, must be carried out even in wartime, for example, enquiries into cases of infectious disease and the investigation of complaints, and I wish to assure the Committee that any matter which was likely to have an injurious effect on the public health of the district was given immediate attention.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G.H. LANCASTER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector."

HOUSING.

Work in this connection was proceeding at the outbreak of the War, there are a considerable number of houses which will require to be dealt with under the Housing Acts after the cessation of hostilities. At present only any urgent matters are being dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notified cases of infectious disease during the year was 74.

Diphtheria	41.
Scarlet Fever	15.
Enteric Fever	3.
Pneumonia	8.
Puerperal Pyrexia	4.
Dysentery	1.
Measles	1.
Whooping Cough	1.

The increase was due to Diphtheria, and that was mainly



due to an outbreak in June. A milk supply was stopped, and a milker found to be a carrier of the same (gravis) type of bacillus as had caused the cases. A full report was made at the time.

I desire to express my thanks to Dr. Marshall of the Ministry of Health for the assistance given in tracing the source of the infection. The milk was not pasteurised and this procedure would, in my opinion, have prevented the outbreak.

Of 22 successive cases of Diphtheria, 20 had consumed this milk, one was a direct contact with a case that had consumed the milk, and the remaining case had been infected in Manchester and was in a different part of the district and had no contact with any of the other cases. A further case was traced in another area; this case had also drunk this milk. Of the 20 cases directly infected, 4 died.

Subsequent cases were spread over the remaining 6 months of the year, and there were three cases of family infections, in two of which, adults were affected through the earlier case in the child not having been recognised.

Measles & Whooping Cough were only notifiable at the end of the year.

Extensive anti-diphtheria immunisation of the child population has been undertaken, and comprehensive figures will be ready in 1940.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year there were notified 7 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 new cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

26.8.40.